



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Department of Health and Family Services

Date: September 20, 2005

To: Local Health Departments
Infection Control Practitioners

From: Jeffrey P. Davis, MD
Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist
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Subject: Updated Influenza Recommendation for Prioritization During 2005-06 Influenza Season

On September 2, 2005 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated guidelines for the priority use of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) during the 2005–06 influenza season. A copy of the guidelines is attached and can also be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5434a4.htm>. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient vaccine available this season. However, given the current uncertainties regarding vaccine distribution, CDC has recommended that the following priority (tiered) groups receive TIV through October 23, 2005. Then on October 24, 2005 and thereafter all other persons would be eligible to receive the vaccine. The tiered groups include:

- persons aged ≥ 65 years with or without comorbid conditions
- residents of long-term care facilities
- persons aged 2–64 years with comorbid conditions
- children aged 6–23 months
- pregnant women
- health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged < 6 months

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH) will be following these updated CDC recommendations. These recommendations differ from Wisconsin's previously published Prioritization Plan as the following persons should not receive TIV until October 24, 2005 or after:

- healthy adults aged 50-64
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children aged > 6 -23 months
- healthy children < 9 years of age who are receiving vaccine for the first time
- healthcare workers who do not have direct patient contact
- household contacts of person at high-risk

The tiering/prioritization does not cover the use and administration of live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV). LAIV may be administered at any time for vaccination of nonpregnant healthy persons aged 5–49 years, including most health-care personnel, other persons in close contact with groups at high risk for influenza-related complications, and others desiring protection against influenza.

Influenza vaccine is recommended for individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina if they are in tier 1 of CDC's revised recommendation as outlined above. Displaced individuals living in crowded group settings are to be considered as tier 1 persons and are recommended to receive influenza vaccine. Currently the only setting that would qualify as a crowded group setting in Wisconsin is the Tommy Thompson Center at State Fair Park in Milwaukee.

Please share this information with health care providers and others in your area or network that will benefit from receiving this information.

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